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Edward H. Able Jr.

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American
Association
of
Museums

July 25, 1994

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the nation's museum community, the American Association of Museums urges you to oppose any amendments to the FY 1995 Interior Appropriations Bill that would limit the ability of the National Endowment for the Arts to promote the arts in American life.

We understand that at least four amendments might be offered to restrict the NEA. These amendments might move to:

1. impose unconstitutional content restrictions on NEA grants and subgrants;
2. arbitrarily cap the number of fellowship awards one artist can receive from the endowment, irrespective of the artistic or educational merit of the project;
3. further reduce the meager appropriation of the Endowment, which has seen a substantial reduction in real terms over the last decade; or
4. alter NEA procedures to mandate something other than "artistic excellence" be the criterion for grant making.

We also understand that an amendment to reinstate some or all of the 5 percent reduction in funding endorsed by the Interior Subcommittee might be offered. We hope you will support that effort.

Please contact us if we can answer any specific questions.

Sincerely,


Edward H. Able, Jr.

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